

Fiscal Services Division

Legislative Services Agency

Fiscal Note

HF 2350 - Lead Testing of Blood (LSB 6270 HH)

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Fiscal Note Version - New

Requested by Representative Wayne Ford

Description

House File 2350 requires health care providers to perform a blood lead test on each patient under age six unless the provider has knowledge that the test has already been performed. The Bill requires the provider to notify the parent or guardian of the child in writing of the significance of lead poisoning if the test results indicate a blood level greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter. In these cases, the provider is also required to take appropriate measures to ensure that other members in the household under age six receive a blood lead test. The Bill also sets forth circumstances under which blood lead testing may be waived.

In addition, HF 2350 directs the Department of Public Health to establish a mechanism to identify children who have been tested in order to avoid duplicative testing, as well as to develop procedures for testing and follow-up. The Bill also specifies that the Department is to conduct a public information campaign to inform parents and health care providers of blood lead testing requirements.

Background

Currently, the Department of Public Health receives an estimated total of \$1.1 million to reduce the prevalence of lead poisoning in children, which includes \$659,000 in federal funds, \$353,000 in State General Funds, and \$76,000 in funding from the Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust.

The Department estimates that approximately 50,000 children under age six are currently tested for lead poisoning each year. Of these, the Department pays for laboratory analysis for an estimated 9,000 children not covered by Medicaid and not covered by another source of payment.

Assumptions

1. The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) no longer permits costs for drawing blood and lead analysis for children to be paid from federal CDC grant funds; therefore, these costs will be paid for with 100.0% State funds.
2. The Department of Public Health will pay for drawing blood and lead analysis for an additional 10,000 children each year not covered by Medicaid or private insurance.
3. The cost to draw blood will be \$5 per child for a total cost of \$50,000 per year.
4. The cost to conduct laboratory blood analysis will be \$11 per child for a total cost of \$110,000 per year.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated cost of HF 2350 is an increase in General Fund expenditures of \$160,000 annually for the Department of Public Health beginning in FY 2007.

Source

Department of Public Health

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

February 23, 2006

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
